

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 INT-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05

SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 GSA-01 PA-01 PRS-01

DODE-00 ARA-06 EUR-12 AGR-05 DOTE-00 FMC-01 /121 W

----- 023093

R 090948Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2106

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LORENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION USUN NY

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ZA, EMIN, ETRD

SUBJECT: ZAMBIA'S TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS

REF: A. LUSAKA 1583; B. LUSAKA 1679 C. LUSAKA 1643;

D. DAR 4071

1. MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONTINGENCY PLANNING, HASWELL MWALE, HAS DESCRIBED TO US ARRANGEMENTS GRZ RECENTLY MADE TO MEET ZAMBIA'S PRINCIPAL TRANSPORT BOTTLENECKS CAUSED BY CLOSING OF PORT OF LOBITO (REF A). ON EXPORT SIDE, WITH DECLARATION OF FORCE MAJEURE SEPT. 3 (REF B) REDUCING CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS OF COPPER EXPORTS BY TWENTY PERCENT, MWALE INDICATED THAT ZAMBIA IS NOW SHIPPING AT A RATE OF ONLY ABOUT 40,000 TONS PER MONTH, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY 2/3 OF NORMAL MONTHLY COPPER

EXPORTS OF SIXTY THOUSAND TONS. ABOUT THIRTY THOUSAND TONS PER MONTH ARE NOW BEING ROUTED THROUGH DAR ES SALAAM AND TEN THOUSAND TONS THROUGH MOZAMBIQUE. GRZ'S EARLIER MORE AMBITIOUS PLAN OF MAINTAINING MONTHLY EXPORTS AT SIXTY THOUSAND TONS (DESCRIBED REF C) OBVIOUSLY PROVED INFEASIBLE.

2. WITH REGARD TO IMPORTS, MWALE SAID MOST IMPORTANT ESSENTIALS SUCH AS WHEAT AND COKE HAD BEEN DIVERTED TO DAR, WHENCE THEY ARE BEING TRANSPORTED TO ZAMBIA BY TRUCK AND RAIL. IN SEPT 9 PRESS CONFERENCE KAUNDA THANKED TANZANIA FOR GIVING ZAMBIA WHEAT PRIORITY. SINCE SUFFICIENT BULK TRANSPORT IS NOT AVAILABLE, WHEAT IS BEING BAGGED IN DAR FOR ONWARD SHIPMENT. MWALE SAID TAZARA IS MAKING AVAILABLE SOME ONE HUNDRED RAILWAY WAGONS TO HAUL THIS CARGO FROM DAR TO KAPIRI MPOSHI IN ZAMBIA EVEN THOUGH RAILROAD WILL NOT BE READY FOR REGULAR USE UNTIL JAN. 76. KAUNDA SAID SEPT 9 THIS WAS EMERGENCY MEASURE. SINCE ZAMBIA HAS ON MONTH'S COKE STOCKS ON HAND, MWALE DID NOT CONSIDER SUPPLY OF COKE TO BE SERIOUS PROBLEM. HE DENIED REPORTS THAT COKE WAS BEING IMPORTED FROM RHODESIA TO MEET MINING COMPANY REQUIREMENTS. MWALE ALSO INDICATED THAT SOME FOURTEEN THOUSAND TONS OF FERTILIZER REPORTED BY PRESS TO BE PILING UP IN DAR WAS ALSO BEING FORWARDED TO ZAMBIA. FOCUS ON MOVING THESE ESSENTIAL IMPORTS UNDOUBTEDLY MEANS THAT GENERAL CARGO THROUGH DAR BEING DELAYED (REF D).

3. MWALE SAID INCOMING GENERAL CARGO NOW BEING DIVERTED TO NACALA AND BEIRA, WHICH IS FREE OF CONGESTION, LARGELY DUE TO EFFECTIVENESS OF NEW, DRY-WEATHER ROAD BETWEEN TETE AND KATETE. THIS ROAD LESS USEABLE WHEN RAINS START IN NOVEMBER. DESPITE COMPLAINTS BY LOCAL IMPORTERS THAT SIZEABLE AMOUNTS OF GENERAL CARGO HAVE BEEN STRANDED IN ANGOLA, MWALE DID NOT CONSIDER THIS PROBLEM AS SERIOUS AS GETTING WHEAT AND COKE CARGOES ONBOARD SHIPS IN LOBITO HARBOR DIVERTED TO DAR, WHICH NOW ACCOMPLISHED.

4. IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS MWALE SAID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MOMBASA NO LONGER REPRESENTED FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE FOR IMPORTS BECAUSE OF RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY KENYA. NOR DID HE FORESEE REOPENING OF RHODESIAN BORDER AS ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE IN NEAR FUTURE.

5. REROUTING EXERCISE IS EXPECTED TO IMPOSE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL BURDEN ON GRZ AS RESULT OF NEW TRANSPORT AND DEMURRAGE CHARGES. TO HELP MEET

THESE COSTS MWALE SAID GRZ HAD APPEALED TO UN  
(SIR ROBERT JACKSON) FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MWALE SEEMED TO BE TRYING TO PUT  
ZAMBIAN TRANSPORT PROBLEMS IN AS FAVORABLE LIGHT AS  
POSSIBLE, IT IS CLEAR THAT ZAMBIA FACES SEVERE  
TRANSPORTATION BOTTLENECKS WHICH HAVE FORCED  
DECLARATION OF FORCE MAJEURE ON COPPER EXPORTS AND  
REQUIRED VIRTUAL EMERGENCY MEASURES TO ASSURE COUNTRY  
OF ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF ESSENTIAL IMPORTS SUCH AS WHEAT  
AND COKE. MEANWHILE, PRESS REPORTS IMPORTERS AND  
FRIGHT FORWARDERS COMPLAINING OF STRANDED CARGO IN  
BOTH LOBITO AND DAR AND OF MOUNTING DELAYS IN CLEARING  
AND MOVING URGENTLY NEEDED SUPPLIES.  
WILKOWSKI

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COPPER, PORT CONGESTION, RAIL SHIPMENTS, ACCESS TO PORTS, MINING INDUSTRY  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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